

CDC Vital Signs

Legionnaires' Disease

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Legionnaires' disease is a serious lung infection. The type of bacteria that causes it, *Legionella*, grows best in warm water that doesn't have enough disinfectant. These germs most often become a problem in large buildings, such as hotels and hospitals, or in building devices that use water, like hot tubs and decorative fountains. Certain people can get the disease by breathing in small water droplets contaminated with *Legionella* germs. An example is breathing in droplets sprayed from a hot tub that hasn't been properly cleaned and disinfected. Water management problems in buildings can lead to Legionnaires' disease outbreaks. Unfortunately, an increasing number of people in the US are getting the disease. What can be done? Building owners and managers should determine if the water systems in their buildings are at increased risk of growing and spreading these germs and develop and use a *Legionella* water management program.

To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/vitalsigns](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns).

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.